

PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 8, 2006

MINUTES

1. Meeting called to order at 8:30 am by Marilyn Wilkinson.
2. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS ON ANY ITEM NOT ON TODAY'S AGENDA
 - Paul Davis – There is going to be a free event at MiraCosta's San Elijo Campus on September 15th with oceanography instructor Keith Meldahl. There is also an Operation Homecoming @ Encinitas, which is the San Diego stop on the National book tour. This book is about 9-11, the war in Iraq, U.S. Troops and their families and much more. The event is September 22nd and is also free.
 - Doug Goad – I know a gentleman that has some letters from his father that are from the 1920's and give a lot of history and information about the area and he plans to write about it
 - Marilyn Wilkinson – When is the Spring Valley Health Fair going to be held?
 - ♦ Randy Ford – It is on Saturday, September 23rd at the Spring Valley Community Center and Park from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
 - Jim Peugh – What is going on with the Border Patrol and their activities on park land?
 - ♦ Homeland Security is in the process of condemning land needed for the triple fence project.
3. Approval of August 11, 2006 Minutes
 - Approval of August 11, 2006 Minutes
MOTION TO APPROVE AUGUST 11, 2006 – Doug Goad, 2nd Rod Groenewold
ALL IN FAVOR – 6-0-0
4. DEPARTMENT REPORT – Randy Ford
 - Ramona Grassland and Santa Maria Creek acquisitions have taken place and we now have an additional 390 acres added to our park system. These lands include many resources including the Stevens Kangaroo rat, San Diego ferry shrimp, vernal pools, golden eagles, and more. We are currently in the process of preparing a management plan for this new land.
 - We have also acquired an additional 4 acres across from Stelzer park that will be an important link for habitat and trails in the area.
 - ♦ Jim Peugh – Are you going to be losing property due to the Wildcat Canyon road widening?
 - We are going to have some impact to Oakoasis and El Capitan, but it will be minimal and we will be getting a tunnel and other items, so we will be getting a good deal on this.
 - ♦ Marilyn Wilkinson – I think that we should also be working with the tribes in the areas and asking them to work with us on trails for the community. I know that a lot of these tribes are always giving money and donations to various groups and I think that something that would be beneficial for their own community they would be very supportive.

- We are going to be having a groundbreaking ceremony for the Goodan Ranch/Sycamore Canyon facilities on Tuesday, September 12th at 10:30 am.
- We are also having the 2nd Annual "It's How We Live!" health fair at the Spring Valley Park and Community Center on Saturday, September 23rd from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm.

5. ACTION ITEM

- Approval of 2007 Meeting Schedule
 - ♦ Jim Peugh – This presents a conflict for me at least once a quarter.
- MOTION TO APPROVE 2007 MEETING SCHEDULE OF 2ND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH – Rod Groenewold, 2nd Paul Davis
ALL IN FAVOR – 5-1-0 (with Peugh voting against)

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- PLDO and CSA Fund Balance Reports – Eric Wong
 - ♦ We are still processing administrative items to fix the negative fund balance for CSA 26.
 - ♦ We have changed some of our reporting methods so that we will be able to report to the CSA's the amounts that were used for labor as opposed to the materials, etc for maintenance of the parks and facilities.
 - ♦ We have a Board letter going to the Board of Supervisors in October and we should be getting approximately \$125,000 for this CSA, so between this and the encumbrances this CSA should be in good standing again.
 - Marilyn Wilkinson – What happened with this CSA that it got into such trouble?
 - ♦ One of the big factors was that the cost of water over the last couple of years has jumped drastically and this was something that we couldn't anticipate. This made the fund start dropping very quickly and there was not a way to compensate.
 - ♦ We are looking into an Irrigation control system that would have a weather monitoring system which would be continually monitoring the weather and that way if it is raining or going to rain the sprinklers would not come on, etc.
 - Jim Peugh - Will you be reducing the amount of turf area?
 - ♦ We are not going to get rid of any current turf, but we are making some revisions to Phase II of Hilton Head to reduce some of the turf area.
 - Rod Groenewold – I know that BP British Petroleum is giving a lot of environmental grants. You would probably have to partner with some of the local schools, but it is something that could really help out in the areas. I will get some of the information from the school that we are working with and give it to you.
- PLDO Fee Increase Proposal – Matt Bohan
 - ♦ As you are aware we are proposing an increase to the PLDO fees throughout the county.
 - ♦ Distributed the proposed PLDO Fee Rates.
 - ♦ We are going to be sending new letters to each of the community planning and sponsor groups asking to meet with them again and to give them information about our revised PLDO fee rates.
 - ♦ Our new plan also includes a cost of living or inflationary index that would allow us to continue to keep up with rising costs without having to go through this process each time.

- ◆ Hopefully, this would help alleviate a lot of the problems that we are encountering this time around because it has been so long since we have increased the fees it is a very large jump, which is part of the problem.
- ◆ The new fees range from approximately \$2,600 to \$7,000. The factors that we took into account were land values, specifically removing very small parcels from our land value calculations since these lots are generally too small for parks and tend to have an inflated value which pushed the averages higher. Also, instead of utilizing a standard "persons per household" (PPH) number for the entire county, we developed PPH numbers for each planning area to more accurately reflect the situation in each community.
 - Paul Davis – We are having a lot of people in Encinitas purchase small homes and then tear down most of the home and rebuild a large home is there a way to get fees for this?
- ◆ No, since it is still just one home there would be no fees.
- ◆ As we continue with this process we will keep this group involved and let you know when we need help and most importantly when this goes to the Board of Supervisors your support would be very helpful.
 - Roger Utt – At the last meeting there was not going to be a rate index, what happened?
- ◆ We listened to your comments here last month and to the Building Industry and other and revised our rates and approach accordingly.
 - Marilyn Wilkinson – So do you think this will be moving forward by the next fiscal year budget?
- ◆ I can't give any dates at this time because we are still meeting with the communities and we will still be deciding what cycle this would be on, etc.
- Santa Maria Creek Greenway – Matt Bohan
 - ◆ The Santa Maria Creek Greenway is in the Ramona area.
 - ◆ Wellfield Park is the eastern end boundary and the drop off into the San Pasqual Valley is our western end boundary.
 - ◆ In March we send 215 letters to property owners that were in the boundary area asking if they would be interested in selling/donating, etc part of their property to the greenway. We received 103 total responses; 11 willing/interested, 52 more info, 40 not interested.
 - ◆ We are now going to be sending letters to the property owners again trying to find out if they are still interested or giving more information or seeing if any new owners are interested.
 - Roger Utt – Was there a map included in with the letters that were sent? I think that if I was a property owner I would want to know if there was a lot of community interest in getting this project completed, etc.
 - ◆ We did not include a map with the original letters, but that is a good suggestion.
 - Jim Peugh – Is this just going to be a greenway and trail or will there be any hydrological studies done on the area? I think it is really important to look at the trail impacts ahead of time because you can really impact the water quality and riparian corridor with a trail.
 - Doug Goad – I have attended many events in this area and currently I know that the ballfields and rodeo area many times use part of the flood plain as a parking area, so we do need to look ahead and plan how this area will be used and what is best for the area.

- ♦ It is a very good point to look at this comprehensively and it will be an important part of our planning. We want to make sure that we are doing what is best for the area.
 - Rod Groenewold – Many times it is beneficial to also know what the land designation is for the areas so that when a piece of property comes up for sale if it is already designated for something like this it may be easier to acquire.
 - Marilyn Wilkinson – I know that one of my concerns about trails is that many of the trail users are equestrians and many times they like to ride down next to or in the water, but this can be a big impact on the water quality.
 - Roger Utt – How did you determine the greenway width?
 - ♦ We looked at parcel maps for the areas and tried to find the most logical parcel areas around the creek.
 - Park User Fee Increase – Renée Bahl
 - ♦ These are the fees that you pay when you visit the park for either day use or camping.
 - ♦ For this increase we do not have to go to the Board of Supervisors because we are only raising the fees within the current cap amounts, which I have authority to do.
 - ♦ The fee increase will be effective January 1, 2007.
 - ♦ Even with this increase we are still much lower than other entities and facilities, but any additional increases will require an entire fee revision and Board of Supervisors approval.
7. Opportunity for Members of Public to Speak on Any Items Not on Today's Agenda
- None
8. ADJOURNMENT
- Adjourned at 9:40 am.

ATTENDEES:

Marilyn Wilkinson, District 2
 Doug Goad, District 3
 Paul Davis, District 3
 Jim Peugh, District 4
 Roger Utt, District 4
 Rod Groenewold, District 5
 Renée Bahl, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation
 Randy Ford, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation
 Eric Wong, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation
 Matt Bohan, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation
 Sabrina Hicks, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation